



OFFICE OF THE LEWIS COUNTY SHERIFF

Steve Mansfield, Sheriff
"Committed to Make a Difference"

Steven D. Walton, Chief of Staff
Gene O. Seiber, Chief Criminal Deputy

Stacy A. Brown, Chief Civil Deputy
Kevin Hanson, Jail Administrator

To the citizens of Lewis County:

As a result of the recent tragic shootings and escalating violence across our nation, we again find ourselves deliberating on the highly volatile topics of gun control and Second Amendment rights which are further fueled by political agendas and high emotions. As your Sheriff, I have sworn to support the Constitution of the United States and to support the Constitution and enforce the laws of the State of Washington. This is my mandate and I will not lose sight of that. I made my position clear on this topic when you, the people of Lewis County, elected me as your Sheriff. I have not wavered from such position or the responsibility you bestowed upon me to carry out these duties. Regardless of the path the federal government chooses to pursue, I am first and foremost responsible and accountable to you.

Doing nothing to address the problem of violence and fear is not an option. Rather, it will only ensure that the violence will continue. Likewise, doing nothing will only empower those who have no interest in protecting rights afforded by the Second Amendment. Unchallenged, they will continue to move forward to a point where it will be too late to undo the damage of ill-conceived and misapplied legislative actions.

I fully support the ability of law abiding citizens to exercise their Second Amendment right to bear arms. However, every right begets responsibility. That being said, I do feel it is not only important, but imperative that we all be involved in ending this senseless violence that cannot continue to go unchecked.

So yes, I do believe action needs to occur, but not in a knee-jerk fashion. Rather, our actions must be deliberate and any new legislation must be crafted with scrutiny to guard against infringement upon our Constitutional Rights.

We must be active participants in the process to find answers that address the causes of our social problems, not just the symptoms. We must focus on the areas that make sense and that can have an impact on the root problem. I consider the root problem to be not guns themselves, but guns in the hands of the wrong people.

It is to this end I am continuing to focus efforts to:

- Close background check loopholes that will help keep guns out of the hands of criminals and the mentally ill.
- Aggressively work with our Prosecutor to vigorously prosecute those who commit crimes with guns and have been restricted from gun ownership due to their criminal past.
- Work with our schools, business' and citizens in facilitating successful "all hazard" planning and preparation efforts for critical incidents.
- Educate the public on issues of deadly force and safely carrying a firearm.
- Work with our legislature to ensure the rights of law abiding citizens are not compromised by knee-jerk legislation and politics.

To restate: I will faithfully support the ability of law abiding citizens to exercise their Second Amendment rights. I ask you to stay informed and engaged with the issues. Also, I ask you to be able and willing to make your position known to our state and federal legislators. You can be assured I will uphold my Oath of Office, continue to do my best in meeting our mission, and protect our Constitutional Rights.

Sincerely,

Steve Mansfield, Sheriff of Lewis County

Lewis County Sheriff's Office Mission Statement

To make a positive difference for members of our community by seeking and finding ways to affirmatively promote, preserve and deliver a feeling of security, safety and quality service.